

100 Cubans Gather Here, T-8 Celebrate Independence

Manrara Urges Unity to

5/23/69
Oust Castro

Across the street and up one flight of narrow stairs from the Roosevelt Hotel, more than 100 Cubans gathered Tuesday night.

Outside, the temperature was 88 degrees. Inside, it seemed

hotter. Six fans did little but stir up damp air, but the people came anyway. For it was the 67th anniversary of Cuba's independence from Spain; and like the American July 4th such a day has to be shared with one's countrymen.

So, as they did three years ago at the first meeting, members of Liceo Cubano Jose Marti met in a large green room on the second floor at 117 University pl. to celebrate.

They listened to a rather scratched recording of "The Star Spangled Banner;" then proudly sang along with a loud, but scratched recording of the Cuban national anthem; listened to a talk by their president, Jorge Rodriguez, and to jokes by master of ceremonies, Dr. Agustin Guitart; sat quietly and attentively while moving poems were read by Cuban exiles living in New Orleans; and heard an Ernesto Lecuona song sung beautifully by a young man who left Cuba only six months ago.

PICTURE PRESENTED

Luis Rios Gamarra, consul general of the Republic of Bolivia, presented a framed photograph of the late Rene Barrientos, Bolivian president during Che Guevara's revolutionary activities. His speech was interrupted frequently by fervent applause; and when he uncovered the picture, he received a standing ovation from sympathetic Cubans.

The principal speaker was Luis V. Manrara, a founder and president of The Truth about Cuba Committee Inc. He told the familiar story of Cuban patriot, Jose Marti, then gave a summary of why exiled Cubans have not made much progress in upsetting the present government of Cuba.

Before the meeting Manrara made some strong statements about Prime Minister Castro and communist control.

A small man, Manrara spoke with deep conviction. "Cuba is the strongest nuclear power in the world per square mile, because of the continual build-up over the past 10 years. We can build all the anti-ballistic missiles we want to protect us from Russia, but nothing will protect us from Cuba," he said. "We

DR. BURTON I. assistant professor at Louisiana State in New Orleans, elected president of chapter of the American Association of University sors for the 1969-70 term officers are Professor Ramanathan, vice-presi Professor Dee S. Dundee, retary-treasurer; and Proi sors John A. Reinecke at Carroll D. Farrar, member of the executive board.

have to oust the missiles from Cuba."

ASKS FOR ARMS

"I'm not asking the U.S. to land Marines in Cuba, but what I am asking is that they give us arms so that we ourselves can invade with the help of volunteers."

Noticing the incredulous looks he received, he stated firmly, "Yes, I do think we can get all the help we need. There are 5,000 Cubans fighting in Vietnam now."

"Castro has changed his propaganda tactics lately," he continued. "He doesn't deny the horrible conditions any more; but now, he is blaming everything on the U.S. blockade. His idea is to create a guilt complex in the U.S. so that Americans will force the government to open the blockade. What he doesn't say is that more than 75 per cent of the crops were produced in Cuba before Castro, so that not that many exports were needed."

"We need to organize our small Cuban groups into a large strong group to represent all Cubans. Now we're trying to make some documentaries by Cubans to show the real situation so we can counteract this other propaganda."

GRADUATE

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